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servations on English prejudices in relation to Ireland, inserted in your Magazine for November, 1812; but while I acknowledge the truth of his remarks, I cannot avoid thinking that some share of blame must also be attached to the Irish. Are we really so free from prejudice as to have a right to think all other nations illiberal, and that we alone judge impartially?

I recollect being extremely prejudiced against the English; so much so, that previous to visiting some parts of England, I was resolved to make the jaundiced eye of prejudice the medium through which I should view that country. I kept my resolution for some time; and I well remember looking with delight at a window opposite to an inn at Stratford upon Avon, on which was written "Woodstock gloves made and sold here." I was gratified with finding that the English could be guilty of making a blunder, without ever permitting myself to reflect, that in all countries, and in all nations, persons may commit blunders, and that it is uncandid and unfair to call the mistakes of individuals, a national defect. But although I was thus firmly resolved to be prejudiced, I found my determination to continue in error vanished, and I was very fully convinced of my own folly in presuming to judge of persons with whom I was totally unacquainted. Yet though I fully admit I was in error in permitting my mind to continue so long fettered by prejudice, I would not wish it to be supposed that I have gone to the opposite extreme, and praise the English at the expense of the Irish. I have had cause to form a very high opinion of the English, and to think them in many respects superior to the Irish; yet still my attachment to my native country is very strong,

and can never be eradicated. One of our poets beautifully says,

"Breathes there a man, with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land!
Whose heart within him ne'er hath burn'd,
As home his footsteps he hath turn'd
From wandering on a foreign strand."

England has acted unjustly towards Ireland in many respects, and among other things may be enumerated the sarcastic manner of speaking of the Irish, and of ascribing all blunders, whether made by English, Scotch, Welsh or Irish, to the Irish. But let us not be disconcerted by such sarcasms; having frequently been in error ourselves, we should rather pity their ignorance, which leads them to form erroneous opinions of us. We may console ourselves with the idea that poor John Bull's attempts at wit against us, only discovers his ridiculous folly, and that Maria Edgeworth, who has proved herself more intimately acquainted with the Irish character, than those persons who so freely censure them for their defects, without giving the due degree of praise for their good qualities, has declared as her opinion "that the Irish are an ingenuous, generous people; that the bulls and blunders of which they are accused, are often imputable to their neighbours, or that they are justifiable by ancient precedents, or that they are produced by their habits of using figurative, witty language." ERIGENA.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE TRUE PATRIOT; A CHARACTER.

THE patriot is the first, and most illustrious of human titles, the most honourable of names: he is the advocate of right, the stren-

nuous opposer of wrong : the friend of the unfriended : the reliever of the distressed : the champion of his country's cause ; and the impenetrable shield of national liberty. He is the just, unprejudiced magistrate : the disinterested counsellor : the impartial judge : the mild and merciful governor : the fraud-exposing representative : the popular, unpensioned statesman : the wise, the evil-anticipating minister, that rectifies former errors in the state, redresses present grievances, and looks into futurity to discover the coming danger : he is the peace-promoting legislator : the impassioned orator, that bears all before him with the irresistible torrent of his eloquence : the intrepid general, when his injured nation bids him unsheath the sword of bravery to support her rights : the able historian, that will not be silenced by the threats of power, or the alluring blandishments of glittering *Mannion*, when recording the divine dictates of undisguised truth, or tearing the mask off the hidden falsehoods of other times ; and he is the equitable monarch, that only wears the crown for the welfare and happiness of his subjects, and sways the sceptre as the sacred wand of discriminating justice.

The patriot is no title of man's creation : it is evinced in the fire of his nature during the earliest stages of youth : it grows with him from the cradle : he lisps its language in the dawn of infancy : it strengthens with his years : it ripens with maturity : it is incorporated with his being ; and, in manhood, it sallies forth in persuasive oratory, noble achievements, and magnanimous enterprises. Who listens when his country complains, and who is ever strictly attentive to her slowest murmurs ?—the patriot. Who is always the first to hasten to her re-

lief, to lift her drooping head, and wipe her trickling tears with filial affection ?—the patriot. When evil ministers, and corrupt statesmen, for their own selfish views, would load her shoulders with unnecessary taxation, and insupportable oppression, who (like Grattan,) stands up to oppose the mal-administrators that would plunge her interests in the profound abyss of eternal ruin ?—the zealous patriot. Who searches her gloomy mind with the torch of fraternal love, to discover her secret griefs, her unrevealed distresses ?—the endearing patriot. And when her heart bleeds for the cruelties of her undutiful offspring ; when her breast heaves with the sigh of inward sorrow, prompted by the unnatural injustice of her ungrateful children ; and when the grasping hands of their avarice and self-interest would divest her of the last privilege and personal ornament, who, like an *unfeed* physician, heals the wounds of her bleeding heart, chases or suppresses the sigh of inward sorrow, and hurls justly merited indignation on the heads of her undutiful, selfish children ? Reader ! it is the heaven-born patriot ! The same who stands in senate to vindicate her rights : who pleads her cause at the bar : who arrays himself in armour to fight her battles in the hostile field : who exposes self-interest to the scorn and derision of the incensed multitude ; and who endeavours to remove religious prejudices and ill-founded opinions, to substitute, in their stead, social harmony, brotherly union, and ever-during peace. His soul is open, generous and brave : his person is ever exposed to the storm of civil discord, when it has not public good for its end. His country breathes no laudable wish, frames no attainable object of hope, in which he does not heartily join : his ear is

ever attentive to her calls : his hand is always out-stretched between her and danger : his person is ever seen where she commands ; and he considers life only worthy of enjoying in her service. Hear it, ye nations of the earth ! this is the TRUE PATRIOT, who, having rendered his country every assistance in his power, and who, having sacrificed worldly interest on the altar of philanthropy, for her sake, at last, still actuated by the same noble zeal, ascends the scaffold to promote her welfare, lays down his head on the fatal block, and resigns into the hands of angels, in the sight of his distracted parent, that immortal soul, which animated through a glorious life, the minion of heaven, the favourite of mankind, and the consecrated idol of posterity.

AUGUSTUS.

Belfast, 1813.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

READING in your last Number the anecdote of the savage barbarity of a County of Carlow squire, it brought fresh into my recollection a circumstance which occurred in the North about seven years ago : a circumstance which served to show the different feelings of the peasantry of this part of the country, to those in the South of Ireland ; the cause of which, as has been very properly pointed out by the Edinburgh reviewers, can be nothing but the abominable and oppressive laws made against Popery. Nor is it at all surprising that seventy or eighty years' severe oppression should blunt the feelings of the Catholics of the South, and make them submit to such savage treatment without a murmur. Many instances have we heard, where, on even applying to the laws for redress of similar outrages, they

have been defeated, and the original wrong made greater by the expense of a law-suit. In this part of the country, however, where the bulk of the peasantry is made up of the privileged class, when recourse has been had to the law for redress, even by the poor, against their superiors, justice has had its course.

The same laws which have degraded the Catholic to a level with beasts of burthen, have had a tendency to inflate their Protestant lords and masters with pride and arrogance, and to induce them, without compunction, to exercise over them a species of tyranny, better calculated for the meridian of Constantinople, than for that of a country which boasts of the blessing of the glorious British constitution. Had Mr. Wakefield reflected for a moment, he need not have gloried in the name of Englishman : for had he thought of the real cause of the passiveness of the injured man, he should rather have blushed to own the country where such infamous laws originated.

The circumstance to which I have alluded was as follows : On the death of a highly respected dignified clergyman, the living was conferred upon a gentleman who resided in the County of Kerry, and who with his family came to live in the North. Shortly after he settled here, and before the dispositions of the people were well known to him or his family, one of his sons, a smart young buck, happened one day in hunting, to be annoyed by the barking of one of those small dogs, so common in this country. On which he dismounted, and threw stones at the dog. A young man, son to the owner of the dog, remonstrated with the gentleman for abusing the animal ; and in terms to which he had not been accustomed in his native country, from any person in the ha-